



## ***“Looking Forward”***

**Building Upon Common Ground in  
South Carolina’s Changing Environment**

# Effort to find “Common Ground”

- Identify a reform agenda
- Initiate change
- Realign resources



# Common Ground Initiative

## **Fifty Leaders from across the state representing:**

- K-12 education
- Higher education
- Elected officials
- Business leaders
- Parents
- Faith community
- Juvenile justice

## **Follow-up meetings:**

- Meeting lasted 2 days
  - Attendees received 7 white papers to help initiate discussion
- Four regional meetings in November 2005**
- Statewide meeting in January 2006

# **Common Ground:**

## ***Progress and Prospects***

- **Strong evidence of improvement amid challenges**
  - **Challenges as students move into middle grades and high school**
  - **Students at the lower levels are improving faster than those at the upper levels**
  - **Improvement is dependent upon shattering the ceiling in addition to raising the floor**

# Current Challenges

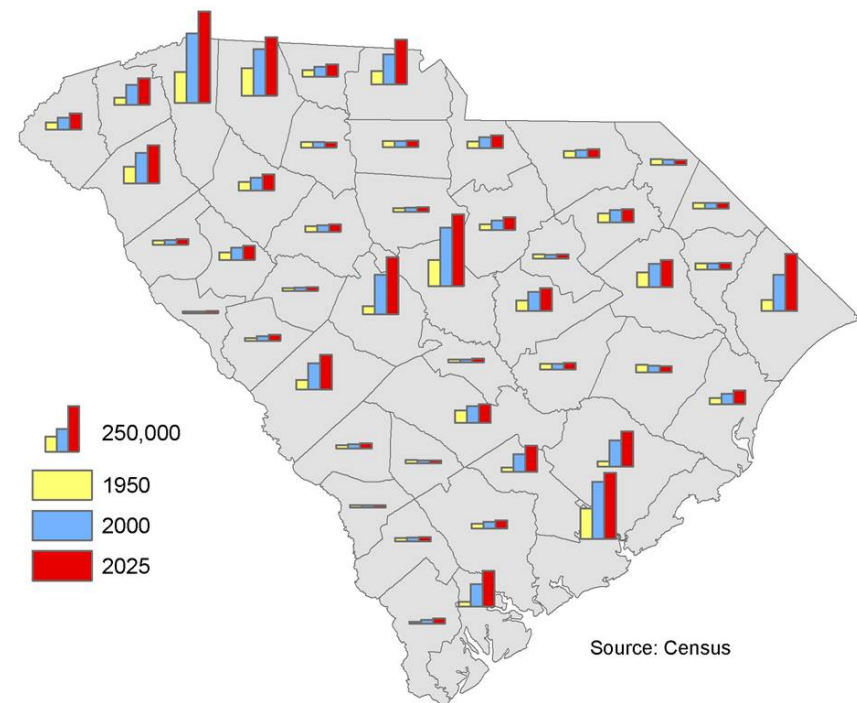
- Student diversity
- Technology gaps and changes
- Teacher/administrator shortages
- Family Poverty
- Aging school facilities

# *Looking Forward*

## What does our future look like?

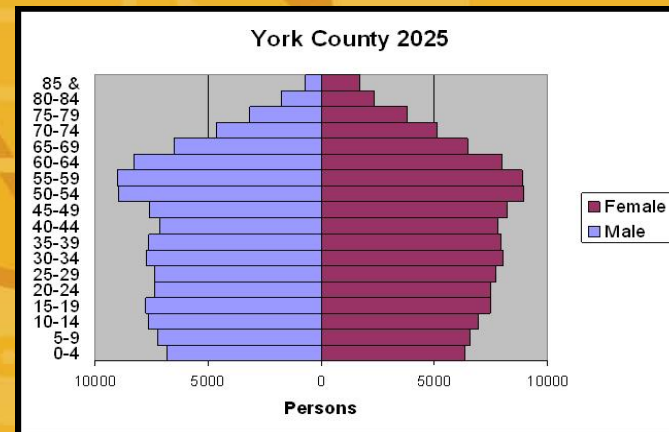
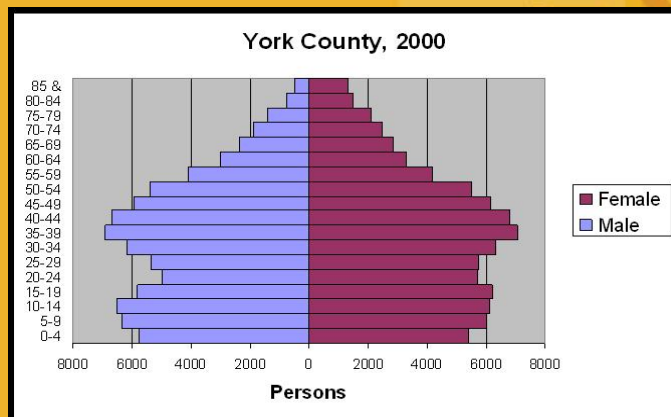
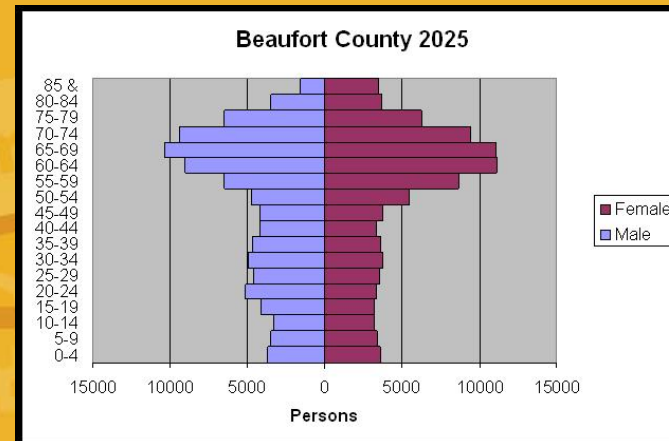
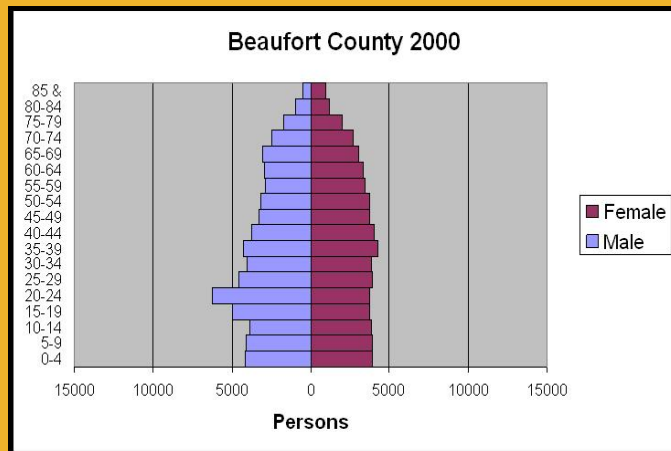
- **SC will have a 28% increase in population between 2000 and 2030.**
- **The proportion 65 and older will increase from 12% to 22%**

County Population 1950, 2000, & 2025



# *Looking Forward*

## What does our future look like?



## *Looking Forward*

### **What does our future look like?**

- **4.8% of all births in 2003 were to mothers under 17. 17% of all births were to unwed mothers.**
- **Half of SC's public schools enroll a student body in which 70 percent or more of students live in poverty.**



# A Changing South Carolina

- The percentage of SC's graduating class today is roughly 1 percent Hispanic. By 2018, that percentage will be hover around 20%
- In 2000, 2.4% of SC population was Hispanic (U.S. = 12.5%) However, 7.3% of births in 2003 were to Hispanic mothers in SC

# **Common Ground**

## *Statement of Commitment*

*We commit to use our influence and energies to create and sustain an aligned educational system that achieves the common mission of South Carolina's young people obtaining the knowledge and skills to be successful members of families and community, participatory citizens in a democratic society and productive contributors to the state's economy.*

# **Common Ground**

## *Responsibilities*

- 1. All students succeeding**
- 2. Students at the center of education**
- 3. Families**
- 4. Recruitment, development, and retention of educators**
- 5. Facilities and technology to serve the entire community**

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility One***

**We must demand that the  
pre-kindergarten through  
grade 20 schooling be dedicated  
to every student succeeding.**



# Common Ground

## *Responsibility One*

***Establish and support schools with the premise of every student succeeding, regardless of gender; race/ethnicity, disability status, economic circumstance or geography***

- Pre-kindergarten through grade 20 goal-setting, policy development and results evaluation.

Examples:

- EEDA Regions
- Informal meetings at county levels

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility One***

### ***Interdependence of South Carolina's educational and economic futures***

- Early diploma or GED completion, middle colleges, and dual enrollment.
- Assessments that meet both the needs of schools and employers.
- Expand alternatives to traditional schooling succeeding in schools.

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility One***

***Accountability mechanisms for the public  
investments in education***



# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Two***

**We must place the individual student at the center of education, simultaneously valuing the student's culture, experience and potential.**



# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Two***

***Respect and build upon the strengths of diverse cultures and experiences students bring into the learning setting.***

***Examples:***

- ***Francis Marion Center for Excellence in the Teaching of Children from Poverty***
- ***Middle Grades Certification***
- ***Collaboration with community and faith-based organizations.***

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Two***

***A relationship with a responsible adult who advocates for the student's educational goals and is dedicated to the student achieving those goals.***

***Examples:***

- PAIRS***
- New Carolina Parent Involvement Report***
- Cluster Choices in high school***

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Two***

***Teach self-control, teamwork and industry***

***Examples:***

- ***Chamber of Commerce surveys of employers***
- ***Reduction in risk-taking behaviors***
- ***SC Afterschool Alliance***

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Three***

**We must respect and foster  
the role of families as the  
primary influence on the lives  
of our young people.**



# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Three***

***Prepare and engage parents as partners in their child's education***

- Adult education program offerings
- Opportunities for fathers
- Extended school hours and services

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Four***

**We must recruit, develop, reward and retain educators who can guide learning so that every student achieves at the highest possible level.**

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Four***

***Prepare educators with the knowledge and skills***

- **Align teacher preparation with the needs of today's students.**

***Examples:***

- ***Increased practicum hours***
- ***Work with different ability students***
- ***Expanded teacher induction program***

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Four***

***Leadership preparation and development programs  
for principals and superintendents***

***Examples:***

- ***Knowledge of teaching and learning***
- ***Executive skills***
- ***Entrepreneurial attitudes***



# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Four***

***Incorporate teaching and learning conditions that support high levels of teacher retention in a school and in the profession***

### ***Examples:***

- Trust between teachers and parents***
- Technology to take advantage of curriculum supports***
- Administrative support***

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Five***

**We must provide facilities  
and technology capacities that serve  
the entire community  
and affirm that education is  
the cornerstone of a  
community's strength.**

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Five***

***Long-range capital plan for schools to become community centers to house pre-kindergarten through adult continuing education programs***

### ***Examples:***

- Multi-billion state need***
- Schools as community centers***
- Capacity for 21<sup>st</sup> century technology***

# **Common Ground**

## ***Responsibility Five***

***Virtual learning opportunities so that education can be tailored to needs and interests of the individual student and that the limitations of a school or community do not limit the student achievements.***

### ***Examples:***

- ***Home computers***
- ***On-line instruction***
- ***Access, access, access***

# Common Ground

*What is its meaning and application here?*



# Common Ground

1. What is occurring in your communities which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

# Common Ground

2. What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

A large, faint, circular logo is centered in the background. It features a stylized figure of a person with arms raised, surrounded by the words "Common Ground" in a circular arrangement.

# Common Ground

3. List the five most important things *your community* can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

List the five most important things *you* as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.